La Carta

Volume 6 June 1994

Why We Need La Guía

In an age where monoculturalists are trying to force everyone to conform to one culture, one language, or one religion; organizations like La Guía help keep an awareness of why a pluralistic society should be maintained. La Guía also provides a place to those individuals who happen to be Hispano/Latino to identify with. It also provides the opportunity for Hispanos/Latinos to meet others like themselves and a base in which they can interact within the LesBi-TransGay community at large.

Our community needs La Guía and organization like her; if it were not for La Guía individuals who were not involved before would still be left out. Latinos who had no idea what Amendment 2 meant would still be subjected to propaganda; and those who had not been exposed to AIDS awareness literature might not be alive today. Until now no other group has reached out as fervently and diligently to Hispanos in the rural areas as La Guía. Nor has any group in the region bent over backwards as far as La Guía in assuring that everyone is included on his or her own terms. La Guía is essential in that Hispanos can keep themselves informed and educate others.

As Hispanos/Latinos we can not divorce ourselves from everyone else; but, in order to function we must learn the subtle differences between our cultures. The existence of La Guía and the forum within La Carta is only a start, but it can be more than a means to our end, our group can be a standard for tolerance, understanding and pride.

La Guía
P.O. Box 1335
Colorado Springs, CO 80901
719-473-67711

Time has shown us that La Guía is needed. The resurgence of pride in self and the community for some, and the awareness that we exist for many, are only some reasons why we need La Guía.

– Gaime

Human Relations Commission

Human Relations Commission Meeting
Thursday, May 12 1994

The Humans Relations Commission demonstrates it is firmly under the control of radical right and fundamentalist organizations. Led by Fundamentalist Vince D'Acchioli (The head of Every Home for Christ) and Focus on the Family controlled commissioner, Amy Stephens, the Human Rights Commission took a solid step back into the pre-civil rights movement days by passing a resolution requiring the commissioners to have approval in order to speak in the community at group meetings, with the obvious implication that D'Acchioli's view that only " acknowledged and recognized groups" were the commissions purview. The commission then voted to deny chair Jim Musante permission to continue outreach and dialogue with the Colorado Springs Minority Coalition.

Twenty to twenty five spectators, representing just about every civil rights and social justice group (and essentially

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HRC (Reach out and slap somebody)

After all that has been happening with the Human Relations Commission (HRC) and the Minority Coalition, of which we are a proud member, I must comment on the whole situation and how it effects us Hispano/Latino gays. The main source of irritation behind all this is commissioner D'Alcchioli (head of Every Home for Christ) who made the following statements:

- Comparing Ground Zero to KKK
- Wants HRC to ignore all minority groups
- Saying people who joined Ground Zero and Citizens Project are the real gang problem in America.

Of course the ignorance continues with voting to limit what groups the Human Relations Commission can interact with; I guess we are not human enough for them. This comes as a double insult/slap to La Guia since we are a double minority. So what are we doing about this, surely not turning the other cheek. On the 24th of May we were represented at the City Council meeting to bring these concerns in front of the very group who appoints these commissioners who are supposed to mirror the citizens of Colorado Springs. Basically, the head of Minority Coalition told the mayor that if the matter of the HRC going against their own mission statement addressed, the intolerant and abusive words voiced by D'Acchioli denounced, and his resignation as a commissioner turned in then from there, the fork in the road, the actions of Minority Coalition would be decided. The options consist of two possible ad campaigns, one positive and one warning of Colorado springs intolerant environment. The outcome will not be known until the City Council meets again in June. The Gazette's coverage of the City Council Meeting, of course, misconstrued a major point of Minority Coalitions complaint of D'Acchioli. and that was that he was pushing a Christian agenda. If

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every racial representation) in Colorado Springs reacted bitterly and vocally. The source of their upset was D'Acchioli, who has been running a regular hate dialogue in the press for the last several months. Among other things, he said that the Commission should "ignore all minority groups" and people who join these groups are the real gang problem in America.

Mr. D'Acchioli, who seems to have become the de facto chair of the Commission, apparently has an agenda to keep minority groups from working together. By keeping them separate and dis-enfranchised, the radical right can pursue its agenda of mono-culturalism-- the whitewashing of America. The report on May 13th in the Gazette Telegraph completely missed the point, the reporter believing that

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¡Mil Gracias, Rick!

It's been said many times before but we are constantly finding ourselves saying "thank you" to members of the Court. The latest and most often has to be to Rick Martinez. Rick has come through for La Guía again because of the successful Cinco De Mayo Celebration at the Hide-n-Seek on May 7th. The event benefitted La Guía with desperately needed funds. It's because of people like Rick, who believe in us, that we are able to keep La Carta going. If you missed it, the night was full of activities including: chili cook-off, entertainment, dancing and a piñata.

As always Rick and his helpers decorated the tables and bar to fit the occasion and the work they put in took days! We can only guess what more great things they have up their sleeves. Thanks guys!

(Continued from page 2)

that was the case then he wouldn't have made the ugly comments he did, and I wouldn't be writing this article. The point missed was that he supposedly heads a group "Every Home for Christ" and yet says things a good Christian shouldn't. Of course, in Friday's (May 27th) paper the public outcry was that Minority Coalition was anti-Christian. I think the real problem is getting a reporter with a clue. Hats off and a pat on the back to Cara DeGette from the Independent, the reporter who accurately depicted the story, .

Another thing that comes to mind when I hear the words Colorado Springs and intolerant together in a sentence is, the test tube city. Testing grounds for two Amendments, English Only and old #2, when passed became a national agenda. And what other city can boast of the lovely annual KKK Rally it hosts every year? What I'm trying to say is the City Council is not obviously worried about their reputation with such things already under their belt. I'm also sure this whole matter would have gladly been swept under the carpet if that damn gang (Minority Coalition) had kept quiet. But the fact of the matter is, the Council is responsible for the HRC and shouldn't have to be reminded to take responsibility when one of their children goes astray.

Maurcedes
aka MDC

(Continued from page 2)

this was a gay issue. While Mr. D'Acchioli's remarks against gays were certainly a part of it, the bigger picture is that he, in fact, is working against the mission of the human relations commission. He, and his type, do not want the commission to work as it should and they do not want minority and social justice groups working together one and, two, they do not want the gay rights groups included in their ranks. The radical right is working across America to tear apart civil rights movements and keep the individual elements separate and at each others throats. Together, those interested in preserving the civil rights so hard earned in the past and those interested in going forward with fulfilling Dr. Martin Luther King's dream of equality and brotherhood of all mankind, are in majority. They only need to learn this and overcome petty differences and the influences of the right to overcome the radical right's secular fundamentalisms agenda.

"Diversity through Inclusion"

As the meeting disintegrated into D'Alcchioli squealing like a pig into the audience, the reaction of the spectators was to file out of the meeting to sing *We Shall Overcome*. Plans are in progress for the reaction these groups will have to these travesties on civil rights and against the mission statement of the Human Relations Commission.

The Minority Coalition had called for the removal of Mr. D'Alcchioli for his racist and bigoted statements prior to the meeting. It is now apparent that he is dedicated to destroying the fabric of the community and to defy the mission of the commission and must be removed. The Coalition, and others, will take this matter and the questions voted on to City Council.

Rita

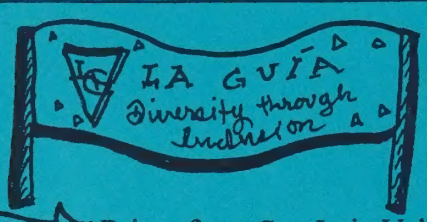
Events

June

- 11th La Guía Steering Committee meeting. Saturday, 7:00pm (location to be announced)
- 18th La Guía Board of Directors meeting. Saturday, Alamosa,. Colorado

July

- 2nd La Guía Steering Committee meeting, Saturday 6:00pm (location to be announced)
- 10th Pridefest/Denver Sunday, Civic Center Park, Denver Colorado.
- 17th Pridefest/Colorado Springs, Acacia Park, Colorado Springs, Colorado.
- ???? 2nd annual "Rampart Picnic and Bike Ride (date to be set at June meeting)



Noticias

Brian, from San Luis Valley, has offered to put together our new banner. The colors and logo will basically stay the same with a red triangle, and black background, but the letters will be silver instead of gold. His work is described as very professional so La Guía is fortunate to acquire his help. The banner will be ready for the pridefest activities in both Denver and Colorado Springs. The La Guia booth, by comparison, still needs ideas, as to what we will provide and how it will be "manned".

Orientation seminars are still available for groups or on a one to one basis. Orientations for La Guia members will be announced periodically and take the place of regular membership meetings. Although they are introductory in nature, they are being designed to be entertaining as well as informative. All divisions representatives and steering committee members are required to go through the orientation process. If you fall into representative or committee member category then you must contact the coordinator via the hot line by June 11th, and set up an appointment or make arrangements to attend the next available seminar, no exceptions.

La Carta needs reporters and writers from the various divisions around the state. Individuals can either be specialized in their submissions to the newsletter or function as general information reporters from their division.

Pridefest for July 10th in Denver and July 17th in Springs are getting nearer, so make plans to attend. La Guía plans to participate in both events. We will be marching and hopefully have our booth up. Remember two Sundays in a row.

Gay Games are this month. As we mentioned before, the Gay Games in New York City, June 18th-25th, will be tabbed as the largest event ever with an estimated 7,000 participants. Watch the papers for news on our Colorado team. Also in New York, on June 25th, is the 25th anniversary of Stonewall! The event is expecting millions of LesBiTrans-Gay visitors to the city, so it will be event worthy of following. It'll make you proud!

A further streamlining of the steering committee is in the works. As of June the Representatives will constitute the Board of Directors of La Guía and will form the executive arm of the Steering committee. The Board of Directors will be required to meet separate from the steering committee periodically to discuss goals and strategy for La Guía. Division Representatives will also be required to contact the Coordinating director weekly so that each representative along with the Steering Committee can be informed about what is happening or not happening through out the organization. The 800# to the hot line will be utilized for this pur-

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Happy 5th anniversary to Maurcedes and Jenny

Day could be night (somewhat regarding Marilyn)

just a page away in life's electic book
your mother tells me how men have hit you
hurt you in ignorance

too bad cheetahs can't be leopards
too bad day can't be night
too bad fire can't be snow when its a dry summer day

I'm sorry for your painful invasions
sorry for the black-eye and the tears
your mother tells me of your hurt
I tell your mother of my damages
I tell your mother I still believe in love
I worship tenderness and compassion
I should never try to hurt you

I don't tell your mother everything, but I think she knows...
if day could be night
I'd love to be the one to love you
I'd love to be the one to share your ecstasy
your silent celebrations
your mother knows I'd be a tender, and strong shoulder for you to lean on

if day could be night
if night could be day

how could anyone harm a lovely flower like you?
if night could be day, you'd find within my soul
a love and devotion to withstand
the worst of storms

leopards can't be cheetas
and sometimes I wish day could be night,
I wish fire could be ice
I'm a daughter like you, we're worlds apart.
and our mothers didn't write this book

ice can't be fire
night can't be day
I'm a lesbian and you're not
I wish leopards could be cheetas

-VM

6

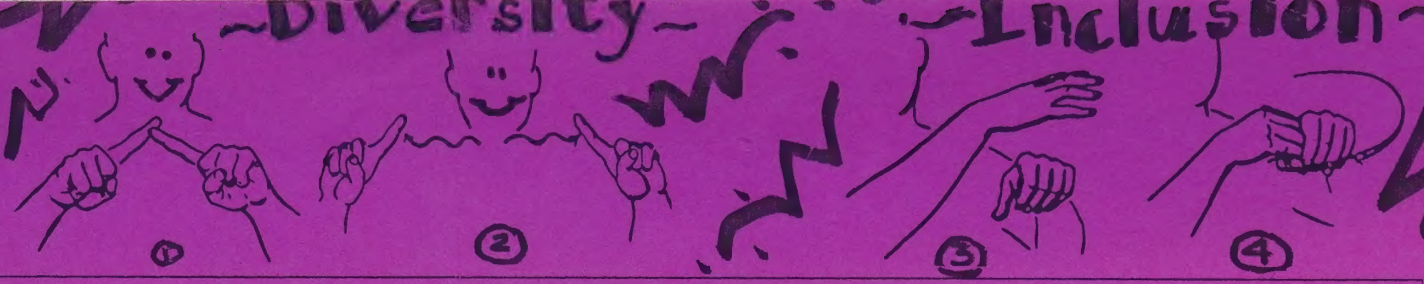
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 International Children's Day, *China* Madaraka Day, *Kenya*	2 Corpus Christi • Fronleichnam • Fête-Dieu	3	4 Revolution Day, *Ghana*
5 Constitution Day, *Denmark*	6 Bank Holiday, *Iceland* Memorial Day, *S. Korea* Queen's Birthday, *New Zealand*	7	8	9	10 Arab Revolt and Army Day, *Jordan* Portugal Day, *Portugal*	11
12 Independence Day, *Philippines*	13 Dragon Boat Festival, *China, Hong Kong* Reaffirmation Day of Argentine Rights over the Malvinas Islands, *Argentina*	14	15	16	17 National Day, *Iceland*	18
19 Father's Day • La Fête des Pères, *France, USA*	20 Flag Day, *Argentina*	21 Summer Solstice • Sonnenwende • Solstice d'été (14:48 Greenwich Mean Time)	22	23 Midsummer Night's Eve, *Latvia* National Holiday, *Luxembourg* Victory Day, *Estonia*	24 Midsummer, *Estonia* Midsummer Eve, *Finland*	25 Midsummer Day, *Finland, Sweden*
	27	28	29 St. Peter and St. Paul Day, *Chile*	30		

In an ongoing project to heighten cultural awareness, La Guia will be posting various "days of importance" for the month. We're **not** diversity *know-it-alls* by any means, it's simply an effort and gesture on our part to promote, celebrate, and honor eachother's histories. Our apologies if we've overlooked a significant day for you - if so, feel free to give us a call so we can add it to our calendar.

1994

6

~Diversity~ ~Inclusion~



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1994

Diversity

"Wetback", "Dyke", "Femi-nazi", "Beaner". I have been labeled from A to Z, some more favorable than others. Well, if nothing else, I am diverse.

As a being that consists of several "minority" groups; Hispanic female, lesbian, I touch an awful lot of bases . It's a multi-edged sword that cuts in all kinds directions. There are minimal to nil places that honestly recognize me as a whole person. The Hispanic community has issues with my being gay, the gay community has issues with my being Hispanic, so on and so forth. When we voice our opinions on issues concerning diversity, we are met with rolled eyes and indifference. A common response sounds along the lines of " Oh, it's another one of those minorities whining that they never get anything. why don't they just work for it like the rest of us? Our doors are open, they have as much right to participate as any other." Gee, what part of the minority in me should be angered? What have you done to proactively engage in dialogue that honors and celebrates our various cultural values and differences? Who is the minority here? Even the best intentioned of orginzations and institutions are still not getting "it" when it comes to understanding diversity. i.e.- Amendment 2 has been overturned while "English Only" and "blame it on the immigrants" amendments are being swept under the rug -or even worse,

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Noticias

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pose. Each Representative is being encouraged to seek potential Steering committee members for all departments.

In coordination with the streamlining of La Guia, services are also being limited to the current work load. Literature for S-CAP and P-FLAG will still be available in both Spanish and English. All mailings will still be available to all members free of charge. The 800# will still be offered to all members regardless of residence. Caucuses in Ground Zero and PPGLC will still be operational. Basically all services will stay in tact but no services will be stared until the whole system can be simplified.

Deadline for "Obras Periscopios" set for August 7th !

Transgendered will be included in our description and future literature in spirit of inclusion. Since we have alot of literature and flyers printed that does not include the label "transgendered", you may see a description or two that leaves transgendered out. This will be true until we replace the literature with more inclusive wording. Frankly, La Guia does not have the money to throw away all our current literature and start over again. For those of you who identify yourselves under the transgender label, we offer our most humble apologies, and beg your patience. Our slow transition to include the transgendered within our description is financial and not desire. We do acknowledge that if it wasn't for the transgendered community "Stonewall" and possibly the entire gay movement may not have happened at all.

A deadline for submissions to "Obras Periscopios" has been set for Sunday, August 7th, 1994. "Obras Periscopios" is a book that will be produced by La Guia. It will consist of a collection of literary works by Hispanos/Latinos and other people of color. The writings in the book can be signed as anonymous if you prefer, but the staff must

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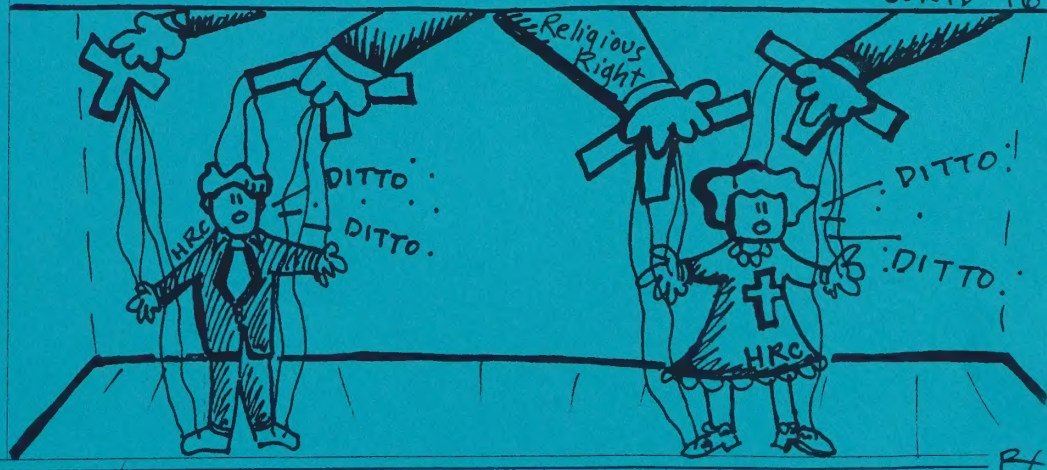

RA

Diversity

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passed. And yes, these "oversights" happen in the LGBT community just as frequently as they do in any other . Now before your panties in a bunch, I'm not saying our is a racist/cultural wasteland, but...for a "family" that prides itself in celebrating diversity we aren't exactly practicing what we preach.

I think some of the problems regarding this issue are the anxieties over being politically correct. (What do "you people" like to be called?) And the answer is simple- It's more important that you respect the individual than you play the conformist mode of thinking. Now I don't have all the answers, but here are some rules of thumb that may apply: Names (first and last) are a strong part of our idenity-it's not cute or funny when a name is deliberately butchered, and..no,I don't know how to make tortillas. So you are sitting there appalled, thinking "I would never be that insensitive." Well, maybe you wouldn't , but you would be surprised how many people are! We are not a homogeneous culture-avoid those dratted, often misguided, generalizations, and..if you have a question, ask!

But times they are a changing'. The fact that this article is being printed is a perfect example. I am very pleased to say that there are organizations actively promoting dialogue on diversity/minority issues. (i.e. - La Guía, Ground Zero, Minority Coalition.) Being part of a community that is constantly waging for equal rights, you know exactly what it's like to be on the defense/re-educating side-(now, multiply that x10). I know it's not a battle of who has the most labels, as I'm sure you are unique in your own ways. It's more kin to consciousness raising (and how difficult could that be?..heh).

So, I leave us,(both you and I), with a challenge: Make at least one sincere effort this week to positively reach out and support (get to know) a local"minority" group in your community. Who are your village voices? What are they saying? We are so much more than the stereotypes of being "good cooks and great dancers"- read: learning a new ethnic dish doesn't count.

We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

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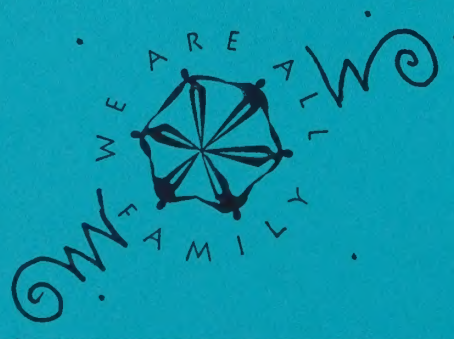
you prefer, but the staff must know the identity of the author. Confidentiality will be assured. Entries can be mailed to P.O. Box 1335, Colorado Springs, Co. 80901



Our Motto:

Diversity through Inclusion

Our Mission:

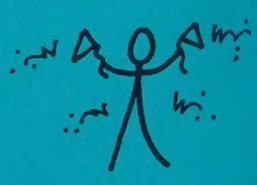
La Guía is a cultural awareness and advocacy service organization that encourages the inclusion of Hispano/ Latino Lesbians, Bisexuals, Transgendered, Gays, and their friends by providing a diverse forum that is both autonomous and interactive within the greater Gay and Lesbian community.

Our Vision:

We envision a Gay and Lesbian community that is educated and respectful of the racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity within the Hispano/ Latino community, and who are aware of the benefits of maintaining a pluralistic society.

Our Description:

We represent Hispano/Latino Lesbians, Bisexuals, Transgendered, Gays, and their friends from a variety of backgrounds throughout Colorado who are dedicated to the unification and education of the Gay and Lesbian community at large, and who believe in the mission statement of La Guía.



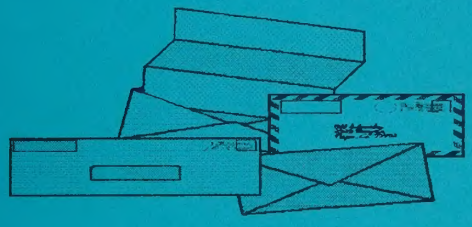
CLASSIFIEDS

☺ *A Cut Above* - Call us if you would like to learn how to be a professional pet groomer. State certified school is opening soon. 630 - 7387

☺ *Colorado Springs Musician* - seeks others for jam sessions. Call the hotline for contact.

☺ *La Guia T-Shirts* - Yes folks, it's that time of year again. Our new shirts are in the works, we hope to have them for July's pridefest(s) celebrations. Start saving your pennies now, cost should run approx. $15 - call the hotline for any update.

☺ *S-CAP Needs You Now !* - There is no time like the present to volunteer. Consider giving that irreplaceable gift of time to someone who has HIV/AIDS. Everyone has something to offer.
S-CAP Pueblo - 561 - 2616
S-CAP Colorado Springs - 578 - 9092



PEN PALS

Dora lives in a small town in Texas and would love to have someone to correspond with.

Steph is stationed over seas in the Caribbean and she also desires a gay female to be her Pen Pal.

If you would like their addresses, or are interested in acquiring some new pen pals of your own, call the hotline for more information !

La Guia Hotline
473 - 6771

For out of state members, and other out- of-staters that are interested, we also have our very own LG 800#.....give us a buzz, keep in touch!

"PANCHO Y SANCHO..."

GET DRESSED!

LA GUIA DOG TAGS - $10

SEE MEMBER